

BRADLEY, R. L. - 1948

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# Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Henry Kirke Brown  
Miscellanea

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



# The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
5TH AVENUE & 42ND STREET

New York, July 16, 1930.

Miss Ethel Henneford

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your letters of July 9th and 10th:

We enclose herewith the reports of our art  
division.

Very truly yours,

H M Lydenberg

H. M. Lydenberg,  
Assistant Director.

EF





# The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

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OFFICE OF THE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

5TH AVENUE & 42ND STREET

*New York*, July 31, 1930.

Miss Ethel Henneford, Assistant Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Miss Henneford:

In reply to your letter of July 29th:


It is good to know that our reply about the Lincoln statues was satisfactory.

We have no file of "Lincoln Lore" and shall be delighted to receive the publication. This issue for July 14th is, we see, number 66. Will it be possible for us to secure the previous issues so that our file may be complete?

Very truly yours,



H. M. Lydenberg,  
Assistant Director.



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State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/statublinc>



August 6, 1930

H. M. Lydenberg, Ass't. Dr.  
The New York Public Library  
5th Avenue & 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to enclose the file of  
"Lincoln Lore" which you requested in your  
letter of July 31.

Due to heavy demand certain past num-  
bers of our file have been exhausted, and we  
regret being unable to supply them.

Assuring you of our continued interest,  
I am,

Yours sincerely,

ETHEL HENDERFORD, Ass't. Dr.  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

1914

1. The first of the year

2. The second of the year

3. The third of the year

4. The fourth of the year

5. The fifth of the year

6. The sixth of the year

7. The seventh of the year

8. The eighth of the year

9. The ninth of the year

10. The tenth of the year

11. The eleventh of the year

12. The twelfth of the year

13.

14.

15. The first of the year

November 1, 1936

Mr. E. A. Schoenhals  
1 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

We often have requests in our museum for the pictures of the various Lincoln statues in the United States.

About three years ago we purchased from you a picture of Brown's statue of Lincoln at Brooklyn, New York, and also the one at New York City.

We have an excellent photographic department in our organization, and we are wondering if you would give us permission to copy the pictures which you sent us.

Trusting that this will meet with your approval, we remain

Yours very truly,

Lincoln National Life Foundation

by

BMCO Union Skin

Union Skin

Union Skin

Union Skin

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Union Skin

....

H. A. Schoenhals

PHOTOGRAPHY

8533 - 98<sup>th</sup> St

Woodhaven N.Y.

10/7/35

Mr M. A. Cook

Lincoln National Foundation

Fort Wayne Indiana.

Dear Sir

You may copy, or  
reproduce, any Lincoln  
statues made by me

Respectfully

H. A. Schoenhals



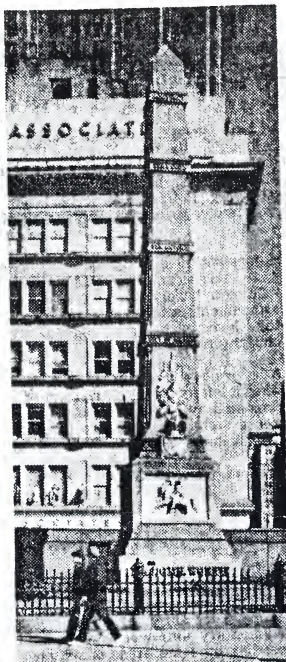


# The New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1987



\$275,000



\$150,000



The New York Times/Jack Manning

\$57,000

# The New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1987



\$275,000



\$150,000



\$57,000

Estimated repair costs for three monuments. From left are the Heinrich Heine Fountain in the Bronx, the William Jenkins Worth Monument in Manhattan and the Gen. Henry Warner Slocum statue in Brooklyn.

## New York City Seeks Parents For 20 Orphaned Monuments

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

Almost abandoned by the public treasury that was supposed to care for them, 20 monuments in New York City have been put up for private adoption so they can survive an increasingly hostile environment.

Their designers are in the forefront of art and architecture: Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Stanford White, Daniel Chester French, John Quincy Adams Ward and Richard Morris Hunt. Their subjects are in the forefront of history: Columbus, Joan of Arc, Washington, Lafayette, Lincoln and Maj. Gen. William Jenkins Worth, who was buried beneath his monument.

Today, this public legacy bears deep scars. Acid rain, automobile fumes and factory emissions have eaten away at bronze and turned marble sponge-like. Vandals have torn off heads and arms, pausing only to cover granite pedestals with spray paint.

### Repairs Exceed City Budget

And the city government spends about \$175,000 a year on seven or eight workers who care for 800 statues and 700 other public monuments. In contrast, some \$1.3 million is needed to repair and restore the 20 monuments in question. Repairs for the monuments up for adoption are expected to cost from \$3,500 to \$275,000 each.

"These works of art are barometers of our impotence over controlling the world in which we live," said Kent L. Barwick, president of the Municipal Art Society, which organized and will coordinate the "Adopt-a-Monument" program with the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Art Commission.

Before the fiscal crisis of the last decade, the city's monuments crew had as many as 14 full-time workers, according to Joseph P. Bresnan, a former parks agency official who has helped select the monuments for adoption. After the fiscal crisis, he said, the crew was reduced to one.

While the crew has grown since then, it is half the size it was in the 1960's — "totally unrealistic," the Curator of Parks, Donald M. Reynolds, said. Mr. Reynolds said he would need 21 more workers to maintain the monuments properly.

In recent years, civic groups and corporations have adopted single monuments on an ad hoc basis. But this is the first attempt to meet the need citywide.

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CONTINUED



# New York City Seeks Adoptive Parents for Neglected Monuments

Continued From Page A1

It also amounts to an acknowledgment that government cannot adequately care for this artistic patrimony.

As far as its organizers know, "Adopt-a-Monument" is the only program in the country that seeks to restore such a wide range of monuments with private money.

Not all of the works chosen are masterpieces. "We wanted a representation in all five boroughs and a wide range of prices," said Paul Gunther, director of development at the Municipal Art Society.

## Two \$275,000 Projects

Nine are in Manhattan, four in Brooklyn and three in Queens, and there are two each in the Bronx and on Staten Island. At the high end, work on the Columbus Monument at Columbus Circle and the Heinrich Heine Fountain in the Bronx would cost \$275,000 each. On the other end, work on "Alamo" on Astor Place would cost \$3,500.

The Municipal Art Society, which was founded in the 19th century to beautify New York, is to deposit the donation in an account with the New York Community Trust and serve as intermediary, working with government agencies to secure needed approvals and as restoration manager, contracting the needed work.

An informal group called the Bronze Committee, composed of city officials and private curators and conservators, will be consulted about appropriate restoration techniques. "We are not going to force conservation methods on anyone," said Phyllis Samitz Cohen, an organizer of the program.

When it comes to recognition of donors, they will be entitled to all the

printed publicity they can get but nothing of the engraved variety — with the possible exception of monuments that are on large sites where a plaque would be less conspicuous.

Two monuments, both in Central Park, have already found patrons. "King Jagiell" has been adopted by the American Conservation Association for \$30,000. "Still Hunt" has been adopted by William S. Beinecke for \$3,500.

Some statues that were not so lucky will be on display beginning Thursday in the Villard Houses, 457 Madison Avenue at 51st Street, in a show that is being assembled by Ms. Cohen.

There is a "Discus Thrower" that was removed from Randall's Island after vandals wrenched off the discus, saved off the left arm and were halfway through cutting off the right arm. There is a bust of John Howard Payne (composer of "Home, Sweet Home"), which vandals were rolling down a hill in Prospect Park when the police stopped them.

## A Sword Returned

On Friday, Ms. Cohen got a welcome surprise. Allan Cox, supervisor of monuments for the Parks Department, arrived with the sword that Gen. Henry Warner Slocum once brandished over Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn. The Slocum monument is up for adoption and the sword had been presumed lost.

Underlying both the adoption program and the show is the theme of civic indifference. Mr. Barwick said he did not think that the city's budget priorities were "inappropriate, given the problems of the homeless and education."

But Joan K. Davidson, president of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, which supports the arts in New York, said: "Monuments and other outdoor works of art are integral elements of public spaces and therefore as deserving of governmental assistance as are the trees in our parks. In the meantime, the private sector is trying to carry out a holding operation."

"I think it's wonderful that any monuments are being cared for," said Lewis I. Sharp, curator of American paintings and sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "But it's a shame that the city has never developed a program for maintenance that is more responsible than it has been."

Speaking about the adoption program, Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern said: "It's not like Little Orphan Annie looking for Daddy Warbucks."

"The city can provide a certain level of care. It can't polish every monument every morning. Obviously, if we get private funds, the monuments can get a higher level of care. It's an effort we appreciate."

Commissioner Stern said he was seeking to increase the budget for monuments by \$1.3 million. However, when asked if there was a political ally who would champion such a cause in budget negotiations, Mr. Stern said, "If there is, his name so far escapes me."

For now, these monuments are up for adoption to achieve the repairs noted:

**Columbus Monument (1892).** Gaetano Russo, sculptor: Douglas Laug, architect of the fountain (1940). Columbus Circle, Manhattan. Retrace the marble statue at a winged youth, which is beyond restoration; reset, repolish and clean the deteriorated granite columns; conserve the bronze vase, \$275,000.

**Heinrich Heine Fountain (1897).** Ernest Hertel, sculptor; Joyce Kilmer Park, Grand Concourse and 14th Street.

**the Bronx. Recover and replace missing marble pieces, including the mermaid heads and arms; clean stone; install a new electrical chandelier and plumbing for the recirculating system, \$275,000.**

**William J. James North Monument (1827).** James Goodwin Ballerina, architect. Broadway, Fifth Avenue and 24th Street, Manhattan. Clean and wax bronze statue; repolish and clean granite shell; raze sculpture and reconstruct cast-iron fence and stanchions; landscape the site, \$150,000. Maintenance for one year: \$5,000.

**James Gordon Barrill Memorial (1864).** Jean-Adolphe Carlini, sculptor; Aymar Embury 30, architect. Herald Square, Manhattan. Clean and wax the bronze statue; clean, caulk, repolish and varnish the granite pedestal; reconstruct, repair and refinish the clock, \$40,350. Maintenance for one year for the clock: \$1,500.

**Robert Powells (1892).** J. W. Fiske & Company, fabric maker. Restore missing pieces from the zinc gesso, including the figure's torso; install a new hydrostatic system; restore cast-iron pieces, \$40,500 (in addition to \$40,000 from the City Parks for art program).

**General Henry Warner Slocum (1903).** Frederick William Macdonnie, sculptor; Fleet Street East and Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn. Restore and replace the general's sword and reproduce missing bronze pieces; secure a bronze bronze eagle to the base; clean and repolish the granite pedestal, \$57,000.

**Abraham Lincoln (1887).** Henry Kirke Brown, sculptor; Prospect Park, Coney Island, Brooklyn. Clean and restore the bronze statue and granite base; recast and repair Cooper (1894). Augustus Saint-Gaudens, sculptor; Westfield Plaza, architect; Cooper Square, Lafayette Street and the Bowery, Manhattan. Control the pigeon roosting; clean the bronze, marble and granite, \$40,250.

**Lafayette Memorial (1877).** Daniel Chester French, sculptor; Henry Bacon, architect; Prospect Park, 11th Street entrance, Brooklyn. Retrace the missing pieces.

Clean the bronze relief and granite eaves, \$11,500. Reproduce the stolen lamp posts, \$25,000.

**John of Arc (1913).** Anna Russell Hamilton, sculptor; John V. Van Pelt, architect; Riverside Drive and 73rd Street, Manhattan. Clean and restore bronze statue and granite base; replace missing pieces, \$24,500.

**Robert Thorne (1764).** David de Lee, sculptor; Florentine Mausoleum-Corona Park, Queens. Clean and wax the bronze statue; install the stars above it; reset the granite base, \$29,750.

**George Washington (1854).** Henry Kirke Brown, sculptor; John Quincy Adams Ward, assistant; Richard Upjohn, architect; Union Square Park, Manhattan. Clean and wax the bronze statue; remodel and recast missing pieces, \$27,500.

**Sculptors' and Sailors' Monument (1886).** Frederick Walton Rockwell, sculptor; Hillside Avenue and 73rd Street, Queens. Restore the bronze statue, clean and conserve the granite base, \$17,425.

**Henry (1864).** Josep de Rivera, sculptor. Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens. Restore the major that forms the steel sculpture; reset the granite base, \$11,500.

**Henry Ward Beecher Monument (1871).** John Gurney Adkins Ward, sculptor; Richard Morris Hunt, architect; Colman Plaza, near Johnson Street, Brooklyn. Clean the bronze statue and its granite base, \$8,425.

**World War I Bronze Victory Monument (1923).** Jerome Connor, sculptor; Arthur George Waldman, architect. Clean and wax the bronze statue; clean and restore the granite base, \$6,500.

**Alejo (1947).** Tony Rosenthal, sculptor; Astor Place, Lafayette Street and Eighth Street, Manhattan. Strip and repolish the steel sculpture, \$3,500. Maintenance for one year: \$2,000.

**Clarence T. Barrett Memorial (1915).** Sherry Edmundson Fry, sculptor; Borough Hall of Department Place, Staten Island. Clean and wax the bronze statue, clean the marble base, \$5,500.



# The Brooklyn Paper

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Lightweight, Folding Electric Bikes  
NOW AVAILABLE In Brooklyn!



October 14, 2011 / Brooklyn news

## What an affront! City will install Lincoln statue the ‘wrong’ way

By Natalie O'Neill  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Like 15 1 0

A 140-year-old Abraham Lincoln statue will soon face backwards at its new locale in Grand Army Plaza — an affront on history that one Emancipation-obsessed activist says will make the park’s co-designer, if not the 16th president himself, roll in his grave.

The Great Rail Splitter will finally return to his original spot in Grand Army Plaza after years of exile in the Concert Grove — but he will be facing south instead of north, as he was when the statue was originally installed in 1869.



Photo by Tom Callan

*History assassinated: Local historian Richard Kessler is upset that the statue of Abraham Lincoln, currently on exile in a hidden grove in Prospect Park, will be reinstalled in Grand Army Plaza facing the “wrong” way.*



*This historic photo makes it clear how Honest Abe once faced: north!*



"It's highly symbolic," said history buff neighbor Richard Kessler. "This is not how [park designers] envisioned it."

Indeed, Lincoln-boosting Prospect Park architect Frederick Law Olmsted specifically requested that the statue face north — although the reason behind his request may not simply have been to demonstrate Lincoln's Civil War affiliation.

Kessler's amply footnoted theory suggests that the towering copper statue was positioned north to face the home of Manhattan's wealthy Astor family, which hated Lincoln's anti-slavery agenda. The goal was to show that Honest Abe wasn't scared to confront his powerful enemies head-on.

Even today, at the site, there is still a clear line of vision from the spot at which the statue once loomed — at the very top of the plaza, facing Manhattan — to the former location of the Astor mansion, where the Empire State Building now stands.



"It's incredible," Kessler said, explaining the view is no coincidence.

The statue was the first Lincoln memorial erected in the Union. But in waning days of the 19th century, city leaders snatched it up and hauled it to the lower terrace of the Concert Grove, where Lincoln remains in exile.

Officially, the city claimed Lincoln had been dwarfed by the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Grand Army Plaza — although Kessler believes there's more to the story: The statue was cast into exile by 19th-century officials who didn't like what Lincoln stood for: Defeating the Confederacy, freeing the slaves and restoring the Union.

The timeline adds up: Rutherford B. Hayes became president in 1877, largely on his promise to remove Union troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and prompting reform nationwide.

A few years later, Brooklyn Park's commissioners, whose terms and loyalties dated back to Lincoln's days, were replaced — and by 1896, Honest Abe's statue was moved.

That's part of the reason that the city secured \$340,000 last year to move the dead president back into the spotlight at Grand Army Plaza, noting it's "more historically accurate." The only



glitch in the plan: This time, Lincoln would be placed on the north end of the plaza, facing the hated south.

Kessler has fought the deployment, but even he admits, "I know no one else who is concerned."

Indeed, Robert Minsky of Grand Army Plaza Coalition, scoffed at the notion that the Lincoln's position matters, saying his presence alone will make the plaza more charming. "I don't think anybody cares what way he faces," he said. "The Civil war is over."

The city echoed that idea, saying it could not install the statue facing north, at least without moving the bronze bust of John F. Kennedy, which now occupies Lincoln's old home at the top of the plaza.

"The new location places the Lincoln statue in an area that is prominent and appropriate in scale," said Paul Nelson, spokesman for Prospect Park Alliance. "The statue will face south so that it will be in full sun."

Of course, what long-dead Olmsted thinks about the whole thing is mystery — although the statue sculptor himself, H.K. Brown, would likely consider it an upgrade: Researchers discovered a letter Brown penned to Olmsted, requesting that the sculpture face better light in the plaza. Brown's statue-direction of choice: west.

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Like 15 1 0

← WILLIAMSBURG: The demise of Williamsburg's art scene is exaggerated

SHOPPING: Fleisher's, a real butcher shop, opens in Park Slope →

## READER FEEDBACK

View discussion (6)

Joey from Clinton Hills says:

secret gay agenda from the revisionist "Abe Lincoln was gay" crowd.

Oct. 14, 10:45 am

S from PPW says:

Damn bike lane!

Oct. 14, 2:28 pm

gimme from around says:

da ol' lincoln money shot

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGJVKByYyRA>

Oct. 14, 4:38 pm

Richard Kessler from Park Slope says:

We all agree that the work of Olmsted and Vaux has enriched our lives, and their plan for Prospect Park might be their best effort. Grand Army Plaza was the first piece of the Park opened to the public. If the fact that Olmsted and Vaux wanted the Statue to face North isn't





enough for today's administrators, they should think again. The JFK bust is fine where it is. One reason the administrators give for facing Lincoln south is that they find meaning in the two slain Presidents facing each other. It also means they will face in opposite directions. They should face in the same direction.

The Lincoln statue should stand between Defenders Arch and Bailey Fountain, facing north along the Plaza's axis, overlooking the large public gathering area surrounding the fountain basin. The backdrop of the Lincoln statue silhouetted against the Arch, beautiful and historically correct, would provide a perfect venue for school field trips, political speakers, touring historians and local after-dinner strollers.

..... Oct. 14, 10:15 pm

Hank Vaux from GAP says:  
Bring back the Electrical Fountain!

..... Oct. 15, 8:38 am

John from Westminster Road says:  
How about making the Park Circle entrance more pedestrian friendly by removing the traffic circle and placing a contemporary sculpture there?

..... Yesterday, 2:44 am





